

The County of Yuba

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



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(530) 741-6461

February 23, 1999

Transmitted By Fax - Hard Copy To Follow

The Honorable Mary Nichols
State of California Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street - Suite 1311
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Secretary Nichols:

On behalf of my constituents and in the best interest of the future of our great state, I respectfully request you recommend to Governor Davis and the Legislature to delay the designation of any additional rivers as "wild and scenic" until CalFed submits its final report and recommendations.

Senate Bill 496 (Sher) would designate segments of the South Yuba River in Nevada County as "scenic and recreation." Such designation may be premature and serve only to undermine the long and costly CalFed accomplishments as outlined in the Revised CalFed Phase II Report.

On December 18, 1998, U.S. Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt, and then Governor Pete Wilson, on releasing the report, made and received the following comments:

"I support the report, ... The document...represents a great stride forward toward solving California's environmental and water needs, but it is still a work in progress. Additional issues remain to be worked out...This is about consensus. It's long, it's slow, but it's the only way." - U. S. Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt.

"The Phase II Report...outlines the practicable steps for California to achieve continuous improvement in the quality of our drinking water, the quantity of our supply, and the protections afforded to wildlife and habitat. And it does so through a balanced program of conversation, transfers, and increased storage capacity." - Governor Pete Wilson.

"This framework is an important milestone on the road to a durable solution that will secure water for California's families, farmers and fish." - Bob Perciasepe, U. S. EPA, Assistant.

Honorable Mary Nichols
Page Two
February 23, 1999

On the CalFed process Governor Davis stated:

"I will keep the CalFed effort moving to address our critical water needs in a balanced and responsible way. I will ensure that all parties have a stake in the process and I will require compromise by them all. No one will get everything they want, but no one will walk away empty-handed."

Allow me to suggest in your report, pursuant to Public Resource Code Sections 5093.546 and 5093.547, to the Governor and the Legislature, you recommend against designating any additional California rivers under the California Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. To take any California river out of the equation before the CalFed process is complete may only serve to delay and complicate achieving the CalFed goals and objectives.

Once CalFed submits its final report and recommendations to best meet its goals and objectives, and best serve the future water needs of all Californians, there will be ample time and justification for designating specific and additional rivers under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

Respectfully,



Al Amaro
Supervisor First District

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cc: Governor Davis
Secretary Babbitt
Director Hannigan
Senator Burton
Senator Leslie
Senator Johannessen
Senator Sher
Assemblyman Aanestad
Assemblyman Dickerson
Yuba County
Sutter County
Yuba County Water Agency
CalFed
Mr. Robert Perciasepe, Environmental Protection Agency
Ms. Fran Grattan